

# NHANES Newsletter

Winter 2015-2016



## Director's Corner

**Kathryn Porter, M.D., M.S.**



*Caption: Dr. Porter*

A new year is upon us, and I look back on our accomplishments in the previous year with great satisfaction. We finished the NHANES 2015 data collection with just under 5,000 participants interviewed and examined. All of us who count on NHANES data to inform the nation's health are grateful to the many individuals across the country who take part in this important survey. NHANES participants give about six hours of their time to complete the various phases of the survey. They provide responses to a home interview, have health measurements taken at mobile examination facilities, allow for specimens like blood and urine to be collected, and participate in a phone interview after their exam. Because people said "yes" to NHANES, we know the latest information on health conditions in the U.S. population, and how the rates of these conditions have changed over time. You can learn about the latest estimates on obesity, hypertension, high blood cholesterol and viral hepatitis from NHANES 2013-14, in the "Publications" section below.

I am also pleased to announce the success of a small pilot study showing that participants were willing to provide

another self-collected oral rinse sample six months after their NHANES exam. In a collaborative effort with the National Cancer Institute and Ohio State University, this pilot study showed that more than three-quarters of participants were willing to answer a short questionnaire, self-collect an oral rinse sample, and mail it to a lab for HPV testing. This pilot study was also the first time NHANES collected information from a web-based questionnaire. Of participants who completed the questionnaire, about one-third chose to do it online, and the other two-thirds by phone. No one chose to do a self-administered paper questionnaire. We have come a long way since NHANES data were collected entirely on paper!

We look forward to a productive year ahead. We are in the initial phases of planning a longitudinal feasibility study with our partners in CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation. This will be the first follow-up of NHANES participants in over 30 years. Stay tuned for more exciting news on this in the months ahead.

## Warm Welcomes & Fond Farewells

### DHANES Personnel Changes

Jade Cowan joined DHANES in January 2016. She will be providing administrative assistance to the Operations Branch (OB) and Informatics Branch (IB) as well as assisting OB with key projects related to survey operations.

DHANES welcomed back Tala Fakhouri who joined the Analysis Branch as a Senior Service Fellow. Tala

brings analytic and statistical expertise to the Division, as well as a large dose of enthusiasm.

DHANES welcomed Jenny Stevens to the Office of the Director as an Associate Service Fellow. Jenny recently completed her M.S. in Biostatistics at the University of California, Los Angeles, and she will be working with the DHANES statistical team.

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DHANES welcomed Renee Storandt to the Planning Branch as an Associate Service Fellow. Renee joins the lab team with a wealth of knowledge about laboratory methodology and processes.

We are sad to say goodbye to several staff members. Clifford Johnson's 3-year term as a reemployed annuitant ended November 30, 2015. DHANES will miss his expertise and counsel and is deeply grateful for his long service to the NHANES program.

Dave Lacher retired after a long and successful career – the last fifteen years of which were with DHANES. However, he started as a reemployed annuitant in

DHANES on February 22, 2016, in the Office of the Director.

Samara Joy Nielsen accepted a position as an assistant professor of nutrition in the Department of Sports Medicine and Nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh. She will be creating their Bachelor program in nutrition science.

Tim Tilert joined CDC's Division of STD Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia where he will work to improve data management processes for the division as well as implement new data visualization applications.

## NHANES & Statistics Canada Interchange 2015 Highlights

DHANES actively participated in the annual Health Statistics Interchange with Statistics Canada in November of 2015. Representatives from the ministries of health in Mexico and Brazil also participated. Drs. Kathryn Porter, Susan Lukacs, Yutaka Aoki, and Tala Fakhouri from DHANES gave presentations on a wide

range of topics, including a talk on the NHANES Biospecimen Program, and one describing the NHANES process of questionnaire development and design. DHANES also organized a Laboratory Assessment Session and explored collaboration with Statistics Canada.

## NHANES at Home

### Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Data Linkage

1999 - 2012 NCHS - HUD Data Linkage

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) has linked 1999-2012 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and 1999-2012 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) administrative data to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) three largest rental assistance programs through 2014. Linkage of NCHS survey participants with HUD administrative records provide the opportunity to

examine relationships between housing and health.

These files are restricted-use files, which means that access to the files is granted through the NCHS Research Data Center (RDC) and all research must be conducted within the RDC. For more information about the RDC, please visit their website (<http://www.cdc.gov/rdc/>). Data documentation and feasibility files are provided on our website for researchers who are interested in using the files



([http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data\\_access/data\\_linkage/hud.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/data_linkage/hud.htm)).

## NHANES Out And About Ebola Deployments

Several more members of the DHANES staff were deployed to assist in CDC's ongoing Ebola response efforts.

Jody McLean was temporarily assigned to the Sierra Leone Trial to Introduce a Vaccine against Ebola (STRIVE) Team. STRIVE is a clinical trial designed to assess the safety and efficacy of a candidate Ebola vaccine (rVSV-ZEBOV) among health and other frontline workers. As a member of STRIVE, Jody worked to bridge the gap between medical and data management and used available databases to check for unreported deaths in participants.

Saturday November 28th, 2015 Jody and the STRIVE Team took part in Thanksgiving dinner with Anne Schuchat, MD, Deputy Director of CDC, at the home of the US Ambassador to Sierra Leone. The STRIVE Team hosted Dr. Schuchat for a week.



*Caption: Jody McLean (2<sup>nd</sup> from right back row)  
And the STRIVE team with Dr. Anne Schuchat (center front row)*

## Tales from the Field...Did You Know

NHANES has collected, maintained, and shipped over 129,870 lab samples resulting in over 11,445,441 results to date from 1999-2015.



### Mobile Examination Center (MEC)

*Caption: NHANES Mobile Examination Center (MEC) in snow*

## NHANES Publications

DHANES staff have authored/co-authored several publication in 2015. Check them out on our website: [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/new\\_nhanes.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes/new_nhanes.htm).